

**January 14, 2024**

*From Father Kirby...*

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This weekend, we move back to Ordinary Time. The liturgical season is all about discipleship. Mother Church takes us back to the classroom and teaches us again what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. During this Ordinary Time, I invite you to recommit yourself to the Lord. I encourage you to once again declare in your heart, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”

This weekend, the parish is hosting a Diaper Drive. All parishioners are asked to bring children’s diapers to Mass with them. Parishioners can drop off the diapers before Mass at the pavilion. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be on site to assist you.

This Sunday, we’ll once again host two blood buses on our campus. There is a dire need for blood in our area and so I encourage all parishioners to consider giving blood. It’s not too late! [Here’s the link to sign up.](#)

This weekend, our nation pauses to remember Dr Martin Luther King and all those involved in the Civil Rights Movement. In observance of the national holiday, our church and parish campus will be closed on Monday, January 15. There is no public Mass, and all events are suspended at the parish. *May God bless our nation with greater racial harmony and a deeper love between neighbors!*

Some things happening at the parish that I’d like to highlight this week:

With the end of the Christmas season, the Nativity scene and other expressions of Christmas have been taken down. The Christ Child and the poinsettias, however, will remain near the ambo and altar until the Feast of the Presentation on February 2. This is done as a devotional practice as we anticipate the Lord’s Presentation.

It’s great to see the work continue on our Holy Angels Columbarium and on the Front Hill! Please pray for our contractors and the various workers involved in the project. The anticipated conclusion of the work is still sometime in March.

The annual Priest Convocation will be held this week, Monday – Thursday, January 15-18. All priests of the diocese will be with the Bishop. As such, there are no Confessions or public Masses at the parish on these days. The Rosary, our regular Adoration times, and our daily devotions will all be offered Tuesday – Thursday.

Please note, however, the change of times on [our parish calendar](#). *Come and join your parish for public prayer!*

As an update, my mother's knee surgery has been rescheduled to January 16. As Providence would have it, the surgery falls during the Priest Convocation. The Bishop and I were able to talk, and he has dispensed me from the convocation this year. He is allowing me to be with my mom and siblings for the surgery and post-surgery recovery. And so, I'll be in Charlotte for the surgery and then Columbia for my mom's post-surgical recovery. I'm grateful to the Bishop for his kindness. I ask for your prayers for my mom's recovery. As I mentioned before, this will be the *fifth* surgery on the same knee! Your prayers are needed and greatly appreciated.

Please note our [calendar for the program year 2023/2024](#) is posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all our events and programs for the year.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

As a reminder, the Women's Faith Study is held every Thursday from 10:30 AM – 11:40 AM. All women of the parish are invited to be a part of the program!

On Friday evening, January 26, the parish is honored to host the noted writer, columnist, and popular speaker, [Father Roger Landry](#). The evening will begin with some sacred music at 6:30 PM. Father Landry's talk is at 7:00 PM and is entitled, *Living as Disciples of the Lord*. Free copies of Father Landry's book will be available to all participants. Father Landry's talk will be followed by fellowship and a book signing. All are welcome!

Our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, January 27, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited to come and join us in a peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

I'd like to encourage every household of the parish to register for [FORMED](#). This is a free digital platform with good Catholic, family-friendly content. I also want to strongly encourage every household to join [EWTN OnDemand](#), which is another free digital platform whose content is supportive of our faith.

As a reminder, our parish staff can be readily reached via email. [Here is the staff directory](#).

Thus summer, I'll be hosting a pilgrimage to the [Great Shrines of France](#). The tour will include Lourdes, Lisieux (Saint Therese the Little Flower), the holy places of Paris, Nevers (Saint Bernadette), Paray-le-Monial (Sacred Heart Apparitions), Lyon, LaSalette, Ars (Saint John Vianney), and the Beaches of Normandy with a Mass at the US Foreign Cemetery. This is not a parish pilgrimage, but I wanted to make the parish family aware of the opportunity. The pilgrimage is a personal pilgrimage of mine and many people from different parts of the United States will be participating in it. All are welcome!

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

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Daily Reflections available through [MorningOffering.com](http://MorningOffering.com).